

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended). In a distributed network, a method of recursively linking a multiply modified multimedia asset to ~~an original~~ a digital negative of the multimedia asset, comprising:

(a) modifying the ~~original~~ digital negative of the multimedia asset to form a first resultant multimedia asset including at least a digital image that is at a lower resolution than the digital negative;

(b) generating a first edit list based upon the ~~modifying (a)~~ modification of the digital negative;

(c) associating the first edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset;

(d) linking the first edit list to the ~~original~~ digital negative of the multimedia asset;

(e) modifying the first resultant multimedia asset to form a second resultant multimedia asset;

(f) generating a second edit list based upon the ~~modifying (e)~~ modification of the first resultant multimedia asset;

(g) associating the second edit list to the second resultant multimedia asset; and

(h) linking the second edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset.

2 (Currently Amended). A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the multimedia asset is ~~a~~ the digital image.

3 (Currently Amended). A method as recited in claim 2 1, wherein the linking ~~(d)~~ of the first edit list to the digital negative comprises:

associating a first edit list pointer with the ~~original~~ digital negative wherein the first edit list pointer points back to the first edit list.

3 4 (Currently Amended). A method as recited in claim 2 1, wherein the linking ~~(d)~~ of the second edit list to the digital negative comprises:

embedding the first edit list in the first resultant ~~digital image~~ multimedia asset.

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4 5 (Currently Amended). A method as recited in claim 2 1, wherein the linking ~~(h)~~ of the second edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset comprises:

associating a second edit list pointer to the second resultant digital image wherein the second edit list pointer points back to the second edit list.

5 6 (Currently Amended). A method as recited in claim 2 1, wherein the linking ~~(h)~~ of the second edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset comprises:

embedding the second edit list in the second resultant digital image.

6 7 (Currently Amended). A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

recursively repeating (e) – (h) to form a set of hierarchically layered resultant multimedia assets and an associated set of hierarchically layered edit lists, wherein a particular multimedia asset at an nth level of the set of hierarchically layered multimedia assets is an nth multiply modified multimedia asset; and

applying a set of n hierarchically layered edit lists to the ~~original~~ digital negative to form the particular multimedia asset.

7 8 (Currently Amended). A method as recited in claim 2 7, wherein the applying a set of n hierarchically layered edit lists to the digital negative is performed by a processor arranged to perform executable instructions.

8 9 (Currently Amended). A method as recited in claim 7 8, wherein the processor is included in a host computer coupled to a distributed network of computers.

9 10 (Currently Amended). In a distributed network, an apparatus for recursively linking a multiply modified multimedia asset to an ~~original~~ a digital negative of the multimedia asset, comprising:

(a) a means for modifying the ~~original~~ digital negative of the multimedia asset to form a first resultant multimedia asset including at least a digital image that is at a lower resolution than the digital negative;

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(b) a means for generating a first edit list based upon the ~~modifying (a)~~ modification of the digital negative;

(c) a means for associating the first edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset;

(d) a means for linking the first edit list to the ~~original~~ digital negative of the multimedia asset;

(e) a means for modifying the first resultant multimedia asset to form a second resultant multimedia asset.

(f) a means for generating a second edit list based upon the ~~modifying (e)~~ modification of the first resultant multimedia asset;

(g) a means for associating the second edit list to the second resultant multimedia asset; and

(h) a means for linking the second edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset.

10 11 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as recited in claim 9 10, wherein the multimedia asset is ~~a~~ the digital image.

11 12 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:
a means for associating a first edit list pointer with the ~~original~~ digital negative wherein the first edit list pointer points back to the first edit list.

12 13 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:
a means for embedding the first edit list in the first resultant digital image.

13 14 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:
a means for associating a second edit list pointer to the second resultant digital image wherein the second edit list pointer points back to the second edit list.

14 15 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

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a means for embedding the second edit list in the second resultant digital image.

~~15~~ 16 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as recited in claim 9 10, further comprising:

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X a means for recursively repeating (e) – (h) to form a set of hierarchically layered resultant multimedia assets and an associated set of hierarchically layered edit lists, wherein a particular multimedia asset at an nth level of the set of hierarchically layered multimedia assets is an nth multiply modified multimedia asset; and

a means for applying a set of n hierarchically layered edit lists to the ~~particular multimedia asset at the nth level to form the original~~ digital negative of to form the particular multimedia asset.

~~16~~ 17 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as recited in claim ~~10~~ 16, wherein the applying a set of n hierarchically layered edit lists to the digital negative is performed by a processor arranged to perform executable instructions.

~~17~~ 18 (Currently Amended). An apparatus as recited in claim ~~16~~ 17, wherein the processor is included in a host computer coupled to a distributed network of computers.
